

**In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows. Applicant presents a full set of claims showing markups of the claims with insertions and deletions indicated by underlining and strikethrough text (or double bracketing), respectively.

1. (Original) A composition which comprises a component which is susceptible to free radical attack, said composition comprising, as a free radical scavenger, at least one particle having a size not exceeding 100 nm of an oxide of a rare earth or transition metal possessing adjacent oxidation states.
2. (Original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the energy levels of said adjacent oxidation states do not differ by more than 2 eV.
3. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the oxide is of cerium, manganese, vanadium, chromium or iron.
4. (Original) A composition according to claim 3 wherein the oxide is manganese oxide.
5. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the oxide has a particle size not exceeding 20 nm.
6. (Original) A composition according to claim 5 wherein the oxide has a particle size from 5 to 15 nm.
7. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the oxide is present in an amount from 0.5 to 20 % by weight.
8. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which is a UV sunscreen composition.

9. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which is suitable for cosmetic use.
10. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 8 which contains a [[W]] UV sunscreen agent which is adversely affected by free radicals.
11. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 8 wherein the organic sunscreen agent is a paraaminobenzoic acid, ester or derivative thereof, a methoxy cinnamate ester, a benzophenone, a ~~dibenzylmethane~~ dibenzoylmethane, an ~~allyl- $\beta$ , $\beta$ -phenyl~~ alkyl- $\beta$ , $\beta$ -phenyl acrylate, a triazine, a camphor derivative, an organic pigment, a silicone based sunscreen agent or 2-phenylbenzimidazol-5 sulphonic acid or phenyldibenzimidazol sulphonic acid.
12. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 8 which is a sunscreen.
13. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 8 which is in the form of a lotion, gel, dispersion, cream, milk, powder or solid stick.
14. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 12 which comprises a water-dispersible and an oil-dispersible metal oxide.
15. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which is a polymeric composition.
16. (Original) A composition according to claim 15 wherein the polymeric material is thermoplastic.
17. (Original) A composition according to claim 15 wherein the polymeric material is thermosetting.
18. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 15 which is in the form of a three dimensional article.

19. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 15 which is in the form of a film or a fibre or a fabric.
20. (Original) A composition according to claim 19 which is in the form of a photographic film.
21. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 15 which is in the form of a coating composition.
22. (Original) A composition according to claim 15 which is in the form of a paint or varnish.
23. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which comprises at least one organic veterinarily, agriculturally and/or horticulturally active compound.
24. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 suitable for household use which comprises at least one organic biocide.
25. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 23 wherein the active compound is a herbicide, fungicide, insecticide, acaricide, miticide or rodenticide.
26. (Canceled)
27. (Previously presented) A method for reducing the concentration of one or more components susceptible to free radical attack in a composition containing said component comprising incorporating into the composition a particle of a metal oxide as defined in claim 1 to reduce the concentration of the one or more components susceptible to free radical attack in the composition.

28. (Previously presented) A method for reducing the rate of loss in UV absorption of a sunscreen composition containing an organic UV sunscreen agent which is adversely affected by free radical attack comprising incorporating into the composition a particle of a metal oxide as defined in claim 1 to reduce the rate of loss in UV absorption of the sunscreen composition containing the organic UV sunscreen agent which is adversely affected by free radical attack.

29. (Previously presented) A method for increasing the shelf life of one or more veterinarally, agriculturally and/or horticulturally active compounds in a composition suitable for veterinary, agricultural, horticultural or household use comprising incorporating into the composition a particle of a metal oxide as defined in claim 1 to increase the shelf life of the one or more veterinarally, agriculturally and/or horticulturally active compounds in the composition suitable for veterinary, agricultural, horticultural or household use.

30. (Previously presented) A method of increasing the effectiveness of a composition which comprises one or more components which are susceptible to free radical attack which comprises incorporating into the composition a particle of a metal oxide as defined in claim 1.